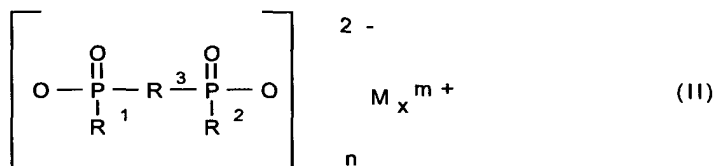
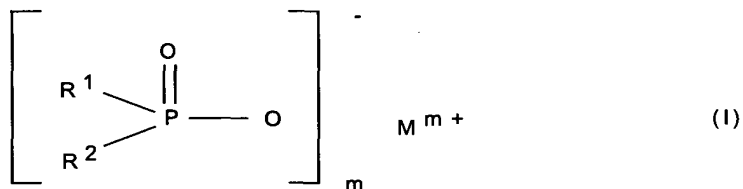


Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, ~~composed of~~comprising an organophosphorus flame retardant component, and ~~of~~ at least one dust-reduction additive.

2. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organophosphorus flame-retardant component is selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of formula (I), a polymer of formula (II), and a mixture of polymers of formula (I) and (II) and/or polymers of these (component A),



where

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, linear or branched, and/or aryl;

R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkylene, linear or branched, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, and/or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4.

3. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein M is calcium, aluminum or zinc.

4. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, linear or branched, and/or phenyl.

5. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different, and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, and/or phenyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene, or n-dodecylene; phenylene, or naphthylene, methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, or tert-butyl naphthylene; phenylmethlene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene, or phenylbutylene.

7. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~wherein the composition and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component also comprise(s) further comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of~~ melamine phosphate, dimelamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, melamine polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates, melem polyphosphates, and/or melon polyphosphates.

8. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7, wherein the composition and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component also comprise(s) claim 1, further comprising a~~ melamine condensation products, ~~such as product selected from the group consisting of~~ melam, melem, and/or melon.

9. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8, wherein the composition and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component also comprise(s) claim 1, further comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of~~ oligomeric esters of tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate with aromatic polycarboxylic acids, benzoguanamine, tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, allantoin, glycoluril, melamine, melamine cyanurate, dicyandiamide, and/or guanidine.

10. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 9, wherein the composition and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component comprise(s) claim 1, further comprising at least one~~ nitrogen-containing phosphates-phosphate of the formulae  $(\text{NH}_4)_y \text{H}_{3-y} \text{PO}_4$  and, respectively, or  $(\text{NH}_4 \text{PO}_3)_z$ , where y is from 1 to 3 and z is from 1 to 10 000.

11. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 10, wherein the composition and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component comprise(s) claim 1, further comprising, as component B, a synthetic inorganic compound and/or a mineral product.~~

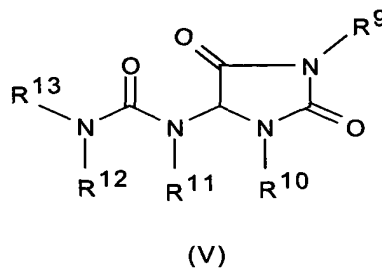
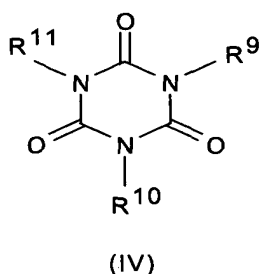
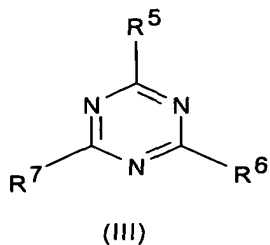
12. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 11, wherein component B is selected from the group consisting of an oxygen compound of silicon, is magnesium compounds, is metal carbonates of metals of the second main group of

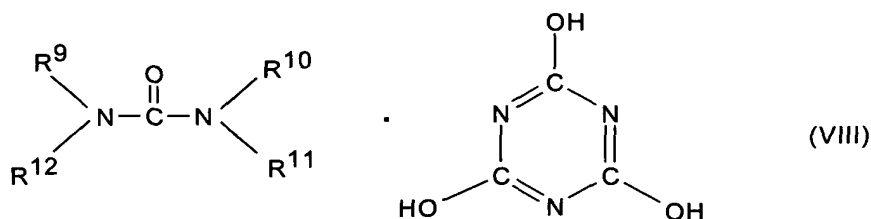
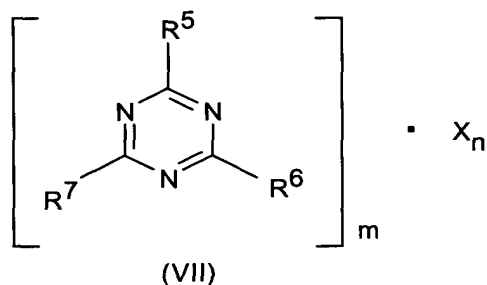
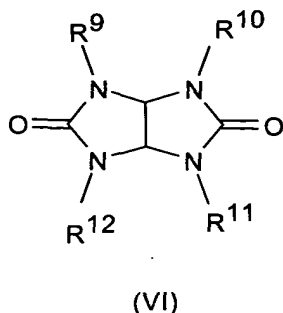
the Periodic Table, ~~is~~ red phosphorus, ~~is~~ zinc compounds, ~~or is~~ and aluminum compounds.

13. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 12, wherein the oxygen compounds of silicon are selected from the group consisting of salts and esters of orthosilicic acid and condensation products thereof, ~~are~~ silicates, zeolites, ~~and~~ silicas, ~~are~~ glass powder, glass/ceramic powder, ~~or and~~ and ceramic powder; wherein the magnesium compounds are selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, hydrotalcites, magnesium carbonates, ~~or and~~ and magnesium calcium carbonates; wherein the zinc compounds are selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stannate, zinc hydroxystannate, zinc phosphate, zinc borate, ~~or and~~ and zinc sulfides; and wherein the aluminum compounds are selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide ~~or and~~ and aluminum phosphate.

14. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the composition and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component comprise(s) claim 1, further comprising at least one nitrogen compounds compound as further component C.

15. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one nitrogen compounds compound are these of selected from the group consisting of the formulae (III) to (VIII) or and mixtures thereof





where

$R^5$  to  $R^7$  are hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl, or  $C_5$ - $C_{16}$ -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl function, ~~or are~~  $C_2$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, ~~are~~  $C_6$ - $C_{12}$ -aryl or -arylalkyl, ~~are~~  $OR^8$  or  $N(R^8)R^9$ , ~~or else are~~ N-alicyclic systems or N-aromatic systems,

$R^8$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_{16}$ -cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -hydroxyalkyl function, ~~or is~~  $C_2$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, ~~or is~~  $C_6$ - $C_{12}$ -aryl or -arylalkyl,

$R^9$  to  $R^{13}$  are the groups of  $R^8$ , or else  $OR^8$ ,

m and n, independently of one another, are 1, 2, 3, or 4,

X is ~~acids~~ an acid which can form adducts with triazine compounds (III).

16. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 15, wherein the composition~~

~~and/or the organophosphorus flame-retardant component also comprise(s) claim 1,~~  
further comprising at least one carbodiimide carbodiimides.

17. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, wherein the dust-reduction additive comprises alkylalkoxylates having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 80 EO units per mole of alcohol.

18. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, wherein the dust-reduction additive ~~comprises~~is selected from the group consisting of paraffin oils ~~and/or~~ mineral oils with boiling points above about 360°C, soft paraffin wax with a melting point of from about 38 to 60°C, fully refined paraffin waxes with melting points of from about 60 to 62°C, and/or chlorinated paraffin oil, with a chlorine content of 70%, and with a viscosity of 1 200 centipoise.

19. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, wherein the dust-reduction additive ~~comprises~~is selected from the group consisting of silicone oils with molar masses of from 1 000 to 150 000 g/mol and viscosities of from 10 to 1 000 000 mPas; halogen-substituted silicones, ~~or~~ functionalized silicones; methylphenylpolysiloxanes, ~~or~~ copolymeric siloxanes; castor oil, glycerol, di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate, ~~or~~ polyesters of phthalic acid; aromatic and aliphatic esters of phosphoric acid, ~~or else~~ anionic polyester polyurethanes; ethylene glycol, propylene glycol ~~and/or~~ butylene glycol, their oligomers, ~~and/or~~their polymers, and/or their ethers.

20. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, wherein the dust-reduction additive ~~comprises~~is selected from the group consisting of naturally

occurring, chemically modified, and/or synthetic waxes, ~~preferably carnauba waxes and montan waxes.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 20~~claim 1, which has a median particle size of from 0.1 to 1 000  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~preferably from 1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~

22. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 21~~, which hasclaim 1, having an average bulk density of from 80 to 800 g/l, ~~preferably from 200 to 700 g/l.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 22~~claim 1, wherein the ratio of amount of dust-reduction additive to that of organophosphorus flame-retardant component is from 1:999 to 1:4, ~~preferably from 1:99 to 1:19.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing pulverulent flame-retardant compositions with low dust level, as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, ~~which comprises~~comprising the steps of emulsifying the dust-reduction additive in water and then adding ~~this~~ the emulsion to an aqueous suspension of the organophosphorus flame-retardant component, and stirring at from 20 to 200°C for from 0.1 to 100 hours, removing the solid, washing with water, and ~~then~~ drying.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing pulverulent flame-retardant compositions with low dust level, as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, ~~which comprises~~comprising the steps of adding, in a suitable mixer, the dust-reduction additive in liquid form to the organophosphorus flame-retardant component, which has been set in motion, and mixing at from 20 to 200°C for from 0.1 to 100 hours, and then drying at from 20 to 400°C.

26. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing pulverulent flame-retardant compositions with low dust level, as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, ~~which comprises~~comprising the steps of adding, in a suitable mixer, the ~~solid dust-reduction additive in solid form~~ to the organophosphorus flame-retardant component, which has been set in motion, mixing for from 0.1 to 100 hours, and during ~~that process~~the mixing step heating to the melting point of the dust-reduction additive.

27. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant polymer molding composition, ~~which comprises~~comprising a pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1.

28. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 27, ~~which comprises~~comprising:  
from 1 to 50% by weight of pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level,  
from 1 to 99% by weight of thermoplastic polymer or a mixture of ~~the same~~thermoplastic polymers,  
from 0 to 60% by weight of additives, and  
from 0 to 60% by weight of filler.

29. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in claim 27 ~~or 28~~, ~~which comprises~~comprising:  
from 5 to 30% by weight of pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level,  
from 5 to 90% by weight of the thermoplastic polymer or a mixture of ~~the same~~thermoplastic polymers,  
from 5 to 40% by weight of additives, and  
from 5 to 40% by weight of filler.

30. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 27 to 29~~, ~~which also comprises components B~~

and/or claim 1, further comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a synthetic inorganic compound, a mineral product and a nitrogen compound.

31. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 27 to 30~~claim 28, wherein the thermoplastic ~~polymers are~~polymer or mixture of thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, ~~or and~~ blends or polyblends of the type represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene).

32. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant polymer molding composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 27 to 31~~claim 28, wherein the thermoplastic polymer or the mixture of thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyester, ~~or and~~ ABS.

33. (Currently Amended) A polymer article molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber, comprising a pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 23~~claim 1, wherein the polymer article is selected from the group consisting of a polymer molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament and a polymer fiber.

34. (Currently Amended) A polymer ~~molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber~~ article as claimed in claim 33, wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic or thermoset polymer.

35. (Currently Amended) A polymer article molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber as claimed in claim ~~33 or~~ 34, wherein the thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, or blends or

polyblends of the type represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), polyamide, polyester, and/or ABS.

36. (Currently Amended) A polymer ~~molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber~~article as claimed in claim 33 ~~or 34~~, wherein the thermoset polymers are selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde polymers, epoxy polymers, melamine polymers, ~~or~~ phenolic resin polymers, and/or polyurethanes.

37. (Currently Amended) A polymer article ~~molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber~~ as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 33 to 36~~, which ~~comprises~~claim 33, comprising:

from 1 to 50% by weight of pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level,

from 1 to 99% by weight of polymer or a mixture of ~~the same~~polymers,

from 0 to 60% by weight of additives, and

from 0 to 60% by weight of filler.

38. (Currently Amended) A polymer article ~~molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber~~ as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 33 to 37~~, which ~~comprises~~as claimed in claim 33 comprising

from 5 to 30% by weight of pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level,

from 5 to 90% by weight of polymer or a mixture of ~~the same~~polymers,

from 5 to 40% by weight of additives, and

from 5 to 40% by weight of filler.

39. (New) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dust-reduction additive is selected from the group consisting of carnauba waxes and montan waxes.

40. (New) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level as claimed in claim 1, which has a median particle size of from 1 to 100 $\mu$ m.

41. (New) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level as claimed in claim 1, having an average bulk density of from 200 to 700g/l.

42. (New) The pulverulent flame-retardant composition with low dust level, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of amount of dust-reduction additive to that of organophosphorus flame-retardant component is from 1:99 to 1:19.